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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/032,210

Applicant(s)

BUDKA, PHYLLIS R.

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 69-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The subject matter which was not described in the specification is: storing a mapping as cited in claims 69 and 73. The examiner will interpret "storing a mapping" to mean -- storing relationship data --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 13-15, 18, 20-22, 24, 27, 28, 38-40, 43, 59, 62, 64 and 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hennessy.

As per claim 1, Hennessy teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, the method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first display page from a first computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; *users' request queried*);

in response to the received first request, providing the first display page to the first computer, the first display page being configured to receive information related to a first and second materials, the second material being substitutable for the first material (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60; *query results of substitutable materials are returned to users*);

receiving the information related to first and second materials from the first computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60; *query results of substitutable materials are returned to users*);

storing the received information (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60; *inherently stored in memory or cached in order for data to be received and displayed*);

receiving a second request for a second display page from a second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

in response to the received second request, retrieving at least a portion of the stored information generating the second display page, the second display page

containing at least a portion of the retrieved information, and providing the second display page to the second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 3, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3).

As per claim 4, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45).

As per claim 5, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains a material name and a material form, the material name and the material form being associated with the first material (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45; *material information is displayed such as material name and description as well as material form*).

As per claim 6, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains a first specification identifier identifying a first specification

associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material, wherein the first specification identifier is associated with a first geographical region and the second specification identifier is associated with a second geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21).

As per claim 10, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, comprising:

receiving a third request for a third display page from the second computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

in response to the received third request,

retrieving a material specification, the material specification relating to the second material (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);

generating the third display page, the third display page containing at least a portion of the retrieved material specification and providing the third display page to the second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 13, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein:

the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);

the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45); and

the third display page contains at least a portion of the second specification (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 14, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains a material name and a material form, the material name and the material form being associated with the first material (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45).

As per claim 15, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material, wherein the first specification identifier is associated with a first geographical region and the second specification identifier is associated with a second geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21).

As per claim 18, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, the method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first display page from a first computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60);

in response to the received first request, providing the first display page to the first computer, the first display page being configured to receive information related to first and second specifications, the second specification superseding the first specification (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

receiving the information related to the first and second specifications from the first computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

storing the received information (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

receiving a second request for a second display page from a second computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

in response to the received second request, retrieving at least a portion of the stored information generating the second display page, the second display page containing at least a portion of the retrieved information, and providing the second display page to the second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 20, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing,

wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying the first specification and a second specification identifier identifying the second specification (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3).

As per claim 21, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying the first specification and a second specification identifier identifying the second specification (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3) and the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45).

As per claim 22, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, wherein the second display page contains a date, the date defining when the first specification becomes inactive and the second specification becomes active (fig. 11, *element 1012*; col. 3, lines 33-36).

As per claim 24, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, comprising

receiving a third request for a third display page from the second computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

in response to the received third request,

retrieving at least a portion of the second specification (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);

generating the third display page, the third display page containing at least a portion of the retrieved second specification and providing the third display page to the second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 27, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);

the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45)

As per claim 28, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with manufacturing, wherein the second display page contains a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material, wherein the first specification identifier is associated with a first geographical region and the second specification identifier is associated with a second geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4,

lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21).

As per claim 38, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, the method comprising:

requesting a first display page from the server computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; *wherein a server is a computer that responds to a command*);

in response to the request, receiving the first display page from the server computer, the first display page being configured to receive at least one specification identifier (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);

receiving from a user a first specification identifier, the first specification identifier identifying a first specification (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45);

sending the first specification identifier to the server computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

in response to sending the first specification identifier, receiving a second display page from the server computer, the second display page containing a second specification identifier, the second specification identifier identifying a second specification that relates to the first specification (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 39, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing

from a server computer, wherein the first specification is associated with a first material and the second specification is associated with a second material that is substitutable for the first material (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60; *listings of comparable/substitutable materials*).

As per claim 40, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first specification is associated with a first geographical region and the second specification is associated with a second geographical region (col. 4, line 57 through col. 5, line 6).

As per claim 43, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the second specification supersedes the first specification (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 59, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a material substitution, the display page comprising a material specification identifier field for identifying a first material specification associated with a first material and a material information portion, the material information portion providing information related to the first material including a second material specification, the second material specification associated with a second material, the second material being substitutable for the first material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3).

As per claim 62, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a material substitution, the display page wherein the first material specification is associated with a first geographical region and the second material specification is associated with a second geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21).

As per claim 64, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a material substitution, the display page wherein the material information portion further includes a third material specification, the third material specification associated with a third material, the third material being substitutable for the first material, wherein the first material specification is associated with a first geographical region, the second material specification is associated with a second geographical region, and the third material specification is associated with a third geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 6-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3).

As per claim 66, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a specification, the display page comprising:

a specification identifier field for identifying a first specification (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

a specification information portion, the specification information portion providing information related to the first specification including:

an indication of whether the first specification has been superseded and when the first specification has been superseded, a second specification, the second specification superseding the first specification (col. 3, lines 33-36).

As per claim 67, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a specification comprising, when the first specification has been superseded, a date defining when the second specification superseded the first specification (fig. 11, *element 1012*; col. 3, lines 33-36).

As per claim 68, Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a specification wherein the first and second specifications are material specifications (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 7-9, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 26, 29-31, 33-35, 41, 42, 45-47, 49-51, 54, 56, 58, 63 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennessey.

As per claims 2, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 19, 26, 33, 41, 42, 63 and 65, although Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the first computer access data from a second computer located in a different geographic area (col. 4, line 57 through col. 5, line 6), Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the different geographic area being a second country such as U.S.A., Asia or Europe. Official notice is taken that communication between computers in different locales such as U.S.A., Asia or Europe is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include communication between a first computer located in a first country and a second computer located in a second country to Hennessey's teaching of computer communication between differing geographically located computers so that users may quickly and efficiently access additional data, which may be halfway around the world, at a press of a key or the click of a mouse.

As per claims 9 and 23, although Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein the second display page contains a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material, wherein the first specification identifier is associated with a first geographical region and the second specification identifier is associated with a second geographical region (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21), Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the first

and second geographical regions to be a country. Official notice is taken that communication between computers in different locales such as U.S.A., Asia or Europe is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include communication between a first computer located in a first country and a second computer located in a second country to Hennessey's teaching of computer communication between differing geographically located computers so that users may quickly and efficiently access additional data, which may be halfway around the world, at a press of a key or the click of a mouse.

As per claim 29, Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by suppliers for customers, the method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first display page from a first computer, the first computer being associated with the domestic company (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60);

in response to the received first request, providing the first display page to the first computer, the first display page being configured to receive information related to a first material specification or a first process specification (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

receiving the information related to the first material specification or the first process specification from the first user computer (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

storing the received information in a database (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60);

receiving a second request for a second display page from a second computer, the second computer being associated with the supplier (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60); and

in response to the received second request, retrieving at least a portion of the stored information from the database, generating the second display page: the second display page containing at least a portion of the stored information and providing the second display page to the second computer (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60).

Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the supplier being foreign and the company being domestic. Official notice is taken that communication between foreign and domestic companies are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include communication between foreign and domestic companies are well known in the art to Hennessey's teaching of computer communication between differing geographically located computers so that users may quickly and efficiently access additional data, which may be halfway around the world, at a press of a key or the click of a mouse.

As per claim 30, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive information related to the first

material specification, wherein the first material specification is associated with a first material, and wherein the received information includes information related to a second material specification, the second material specification being associated with a second material that is substitutable for the first material (fig. 5; col. 4, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 41-49; col. 6, lines 7-28; col. 7, lines 6-45; col. 7, lines 47-64; col. 8, lines 18-21; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 31, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive information related to the first material specification, and wherein the received information includes information related to a second material specification, the second material specification superseding the first material specification (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60).

As per claim 34, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying a first specification associated with the first material and a second specification identifier identifying a second specification associated with the second material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3).

As per claim 35, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection

with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies,
wherein:

the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying the first material specification and a second specification identifier identifying a second material specification, the first material specification being associated with a first material and the second material specification being associated with a second material that is substitutable for the first material (col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3);
and

the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45)

Claims 45 and 54 are individually similar in scope to claim 29 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 46 and 55 are individually similar in scope to claim 30 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 47 and 56 are individually similar in scope to claim 31 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 49 and 58 are individually similar in scope to claim 33 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 50 is similar in scope to claim 34 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 51 is similar in scope to claim 35 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

7. Claims 11 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennessy in view of Bonneau et al. ("Bonneau").

As per claim 11, although Hennessy teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein information such as material specification is stored in a database and retrieved from a database with remote access capabilities (), Hennessy does not explicitly disclose storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from multiple databases. Bonneau teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing, wherein information such as material specification is stored, retrieved and remotely accessed from multiple databases (col. 7, lines 54-57; col. 9, lines 62-67; col. 16, lines 29-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Bonneau's teaching of storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from multiple databases to Hennessy's teaching of storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from a database to provide users with an additional means of organizing data as an implementation preference.

As per claim 25, although Hennessy teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies, wherein information such as various material specifications are stored in a database and retrieved from a database with remote access capabilities (col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60), Hennessy does not explicitly disclose storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from multiple databases. Bonneau teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to materials for

manufacturing, wherein information such as material specification is stored, retrieved and remotely accessed from multiple databases (col. 7, lines 54-57; col. 9, lines 62-67; col. 16, lines 29-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Bonneau's teaching of storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from multiple databases to Hennessey's teaching of storing, retrieving and remotely accessing information from a database to provide users with an additional means of organizing data as an implementation preference.

8. Claims 32, 36, 37, 44, 48, 52, 53, 57, 60, 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hennessey in view of Nesbitt.

As per claim 32, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the received information includes information related to a second specification, the second process specification superseding the first process specification (Hennessey: col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-55; col. 12, lines 58-60). The modified Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the specification being a process specification. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first and second specifications are process specifications (col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59; *wherein process specification may be revised to call for a different material*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a specification being a process specification to

Hennessey's teaching of a specification being a material specification in order to provide dimensionally corrected and functionally enhanced parts to manufacturers.

As per claim 36, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier identifying the first process specification and a second specification identifier identifying a second process specification, the second specification superseding the first process specification (Hennessey: col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3). The modified Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the specification being a process specification. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first and second specifications are process specifications (col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59; *wherein process specification may be revised to call for a different material*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a specification being a process specification to Hennessey's teaching of a specification being a material specification in order to provide dimensionally corrected and functionally enhanced parts to manufacturers.

As per claim 37, the modified Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for providing information related to domestic specifications usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by foreign suppliers for domestic companies, wherein the first display page is configured to receive a first specification identifier

identifying the first specification and a second specification identifier identifying the second specification (Hennessey: col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3) and the second display page contains the first specification identifier and the second specification identifier (Hennessey: fig. 5; col. 7, lines 6-45). Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the specification being a process specification. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first and second specifications are process specifications (col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59; *wherein process specification may be revised to call for a different material*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a specification being a process specification to Hennessey's teaching of a specification being a material specification in order to provide dimensionally corrected and functionally enhanced parts to manufacturers.

As per claim 44, although Hennessey teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first and second specifications are material specifications (col. 4, lines 57-66; col. 7, lines 47-52; col. 10, lines 35-42; col. 12, lines 58-60; col. 13, line 61 through col. 14, line 3), Hennessey does not explicitly disclose the specification being a process specification. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the first and second specifications are process specifications (col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59; *wherein process*

specification may be revised to call for a different material). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a specification being a process specification to Hennessey's teaching of a specification being a material specification in order to provide dimensionally corrected and functionally enhanced parts to manufacturers.

Claims 48 and 57 are individually similar in scope to claim 32 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 52 is similar in scope to claim 36 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 53 is similar in scope to claim 37 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 60, although Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a material substitution, the display page wherein the material information portion includes a common name associated with the first material (col. 4, lines 32-58; col. 14, lines 27-32), Hennessey does not explicitly disclose a material's form. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the material information portion includes a material's form (col. 2, line 59 through col. 3, line 36; col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a material information portion including a material's form to Hennessey's teaching of a material information portion in order to

provide users with additional information that is dimensionally correct and in compliance with other requirements.

As per claim 61, although Hennessey teaches a computer-readable medium containing a display page configured to provide information related to a material substitution, the display page wherein the material information portion includes a common name associated with the first material and a third material specification, the third material specification associated with a third material, the third material being substitutable for the first material (col. 2, line 59 through col. 3, line 36; col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59), Hennessey does not explicitly disclose a material's form. Nesbitt teaches a method in a computer system for obtaining information related to a specification usable in connection with manufacturing from a server computer, wherein the material information portion includes a material's form (col. 2, line 59 through col. 3, line 36; col. 4, lines 10-18 and 43-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Nesbitt's teaching of a material information portion including a material's form to Hennessey's teaching of a material information portion in order to provide users with additional information that is dimensionally correct and in compliance with other requirements.

9. Claims 69 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nesbitt.

As per claim 69, Nesbitt teaches a method for providing information related to a first material usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by a supplier for a company, the method comprising receiving from the company an indication of a second

material that is substitutable for the first material (col. 2, line 59 through col. 3, line 36; *plurality of substitutable options offered*), receiving from the supplier a request for information relating to the first material (col. 4, lines 43-59) and, in response to receiving the request, retrieving the stored information of the first and second materials and providing an indication that the second material is substitutable for the first material (col. 4, lines 55-60). Nesbitt does not explicitly disclose storing a mapping between the first material and the second material. Hennessey teaches a method for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies comprising storing a mapping between the first material and the second material (col. 7, lines 14-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hennessey's teaching of storing a mapping between the first material and the second material to Nesbitt's teaching of storing first material and second material information in order to improve the organization, entry and retrieval of product information.

As per claim 73, Nesbitt teaches method for providing information related to a first specification and assemblies provided by a supplier for a usable in connection with pads company, the method comprising receiving from the company an indication of a second specification that supersedes the first specification (col. 2, line 59 through col. 3, line 36; *plurality of substitutable options offered*), receiving from the supplier a request for information relating to the first material (col. 4, lines 43-59) and, in response to receiving the request, retrieving the stored information of the first and second materials and providing an indication that the second material is substitutable for the first material

(col. 4, lines 55-60). Nesbitt does not explicitly disclose storing a mapping between the first material and the second material. Hennessey teaches a method for providing information related to materials for manufacturing parts and assemblies comprising storing a mapping between the first material and the second material (col. 7, lines 14-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hennessey's teaching of storing a mapping between the first material and the second material to Nesbitt's teaching of storing first material and second material information in order to improve the organization, entry and retrieval of product information.

10. Claims 70-72 and 74-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nesbitt.

As per claims 70-72 and 74-76, ~~the modified~~ Nesbitt teaches a method for providing information related to a first material usable in connection with parts and assemblies provided by a supplier for a company, wherein users may search for substitutable materials and search for substitutable materials by supplier (Abstract; line 59 through col. 3, line 36; col. 4, lines 43-60), Nesbitt does not explicitly disclose the search capabilities to include searching materials by country or by suppliers located in a country (i.e. materials are associated with a country and wherein the materials are substitutable only when the supplier is located in the country). Official Notice is taken that using search engines to search for materials associated with a country is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include search capabilities that include searching for materials associated

with a country to Nesbitt's teaching of search capabilities that include searching for substitutable materials in order to provide users with searching capabilities with greater scope.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kiuchi et al. (US 5,870,712) teach a data processing method and its apparatus.

Wallen et al. (US 6,823,342 B2) teach a method and system for capturing, managing, and disseminating manufacturing knowledge.

Khan (US 2002/0032611 A1) teaches method and system for sourcing bill of material and data handling configurations software.

Puri (US 6,064,982) teaches a smart configurator.

Hill (US 5,970,471) teaches a virtual catalog and product presentation method and apparatus.

Shiiba et al. (US 6,629,008 B2) teach a production control system and method for producing air conditioners.

Bjornson et al. (US 6,662,062 B1) teach an apparatus and method for selecting a mechanical seal.

Bieganski et al. (US 6,412,012 B1) teach a system, method, and article of manufacture for making a compatibility-aware recommendations to a user.

Inquires

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN
Patent Examiner
September 2, 2004

Kristine Kincaid
Kristine Kincaid
Supervisor
Art Unit 2174
September 2, 2004